



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



**Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)**



Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Juan A. Martínez, Caribbean Area Director

Juan M. Ortiz Serbiá, State Executive Director

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency administer the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Juan A. Martínez, Director of the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Juan M. Ortiz-Serbiá, State Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency, announce that both Agencies will be accepting applications for the Grassland Reserve Program. Applicants may submit applications for rental agreements and easements. Offers for participation must include no less than 40 contiguous acres.

The Grassland Reserve program (GRP) is a voluntary program that helps landowners and operators restore and protect grassland, pastureland and other lands. Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land, while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices, produce hay and other approved practices. The Program offers several enrollment options:

- **Rental Agreement** – participants may choose a 10-year, 15-year, 20-year or 30-year contract.
 - **USDA will provide annual payments for the life of the agreement.**
 - **To be eligible for a rental agreement, the applicant must provide evidence of general control of the land acreage.**
- **Permanent Easement** – conservation easement in perpetuity
- **Thirty (30) - year Easement**
 - **For easement options, USDA will provide payments at the participant's request, in lump sum or annual payments.**
 - **To be eligible for the easement options, the applicant must be the landowner.**

For Fiscal Year 2005, the GRP in Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands will be limited to rental agreements.

The GRP sign-up is on a continuous basis, however, to be eligible for 2005 funds, applications must be received by March 25, 2005.

Please contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency office for more information and other eligibility requirements. Also you can visit us online at <http://www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/index.html>

NRCS Offices: Arecibo (787-817-2473); Bayamón (787-261-3880); Caguas (787-743-2743); Corozal (787-859-2880); Guayama (787-864-0650); Humacao (787-852-0760); Juana Díaz (787-837-4450); Loíza (787-876-7442); Mayaguez (787-831-3402); Ponce (787-841-3275); San Germán (787-892-1480); San Sebastián (787-896-3565); St. Croix (USVI) (340-692-9662) Utuado (787-894-1480)

FSA Offices: Adjuntas (787-829-2030); Arecibo (787-878-2580); Barranquitas (787-857-3940); Caguas (787-743-2203); Corozal (787-859-2880); Lares (787-897-4610); Mayaguez (787-831-3328); Ponce (787-841-3136); St. Croix (USVI) (340-692-9662) Utuado (787-894-1480)

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